

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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“Let there be light”

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God spoke these words after He created the heavens and the earth (*Genesis 1:1-3*). It was the first order of business to help sustain life, which was to come next. Living things, like plants, animals, and man would need light to assure and sustain their existence. As man would be served by animals, and the man and animals would be served by plants, none could exist without light. Therefore, light was commanded by God “to be” and exalting the glorious power of God, “there was light.”

While God ordained the sun to provide light and heat on the earth, God does not need the sun to provide light. Light came by command on the first day of creation, while the sun was made on the fourth day (*Genesis 1:3-5; 16-19*). John reveals that the glorious eternal city of heaven does not need the sun for its light, “for the glory of God did lighten it, and the lamp thereof is the lamb” (*Revelation 21:23*). God is light and dwells in unapproachable light. Bright light, void of contaminants, exalts His glory (*I John 1:5, I Timothy 6:16*).

As light was the first priority with God to sustain life, our lives shining as lights to reflect the glory of God should be our life-long priority.

In a dark world of coarse speech and impurity, there is a need for clean, uplifting words and pure lives. Christians are “light in the Lord,” therefore they need to walk “as children of light” (*Ephesians 5:8*). Their speech should not spew out verbal filth, or corrupt minds with impure innuendos but their words should lift up others, being filled with thanksgiving (*Ephesians 5:3-4*). Covetousness and fornication characterize the darkness that light is not only forbidden to “fellowship,” but even must “reprove.” It must because that is what light does. Light always exposes darkness (*Ephesians 5:11-13*).

In our dark world of ignorance, there is a need for the light of knowledge. As God commanded light to shine out of darkness, He through the Gospel gives “the light of knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (*2 Corinthians 4:6*; while the “god of this world” tries to blind the eyes of the world so they will not obtain the knowledge of God through Jesus. Christians should be shining, holding forth the word of life (*Philippians 2:16*).

A dark world needs to see Christians who are not murmuring or questioning the demands of God (*Philippians 2:15*). How can your

so-called light glorify our Father in heaven, and His Son, Jesus Christ, when others in darkness hear us complain of the restrictive or “straitened way” that God demands of us through His Holy Spirit (*Matthew 7:13-14*).

In this dark world of hate, the light of love needs to shine. If a man confesses to be a Christian, and hates his brother, God says he is really “in the darkness” (*I John 2:11*). Darkness has blinded his eyes. God’s love is not that we are just kind to people whom we like, but we seek the well-being of all, even our enemies (*Matthew 5:43-48*). Love is not mere fuzzy good intentions, but concrete action which truly meets the need of the one we are to love (*I John 3:15-18*).

As light was a priority in the sequence of God’s creation of the universe, light should be a priority in our lives as we live in this world before God’s eyes. The command is clear: God said, “Let there be light.” A spiritually dark world desperately needs light. Dear Christian, let us resolve to be a light of purity in our dark world of impurity! May we be a light of knowledge in this dark world of ignorance! In us, let the light of love shine in this dark world of hate!